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Fraïssé structures and a conjecture of Furstenberg

Comment.Math.Univ.Carolin. 60,1 (2019) 1-24.

Abstract: We study problems concerning the Samuel compactification of the automorphism group of a countable first-order structure. A key motivating question is a problem of Furstenberg and a counter-conjecture by Pestov regarding the difference between S(G), the Samuel compactification, and E(M(G)), the enveloping semigroup of the universal minimal flow. We resolve Furstenberg's problem for several automorphism groups and give a detailed study in the case of $G = S_{\infty}$, leading us to define and investigate several new types of ultrafilters on a countable set.

Keywords: Fraïssé structures; enveloping semigroups; universal minimal flow AMS Subject Classification: 37B05, 05C63, 03E05, 22F50

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